

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 01995 311109Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-13 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /092 W
-----127472 311859Z /46

R 311000Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO AMEMBASSY LAGIERS
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8024
AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 1995

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, SS, AG, MO, MR
SUBJECT: SAHARA DISPUTE: WHEREABOUTS OF ALGERIAN SAHARA EXPERT

REF: (A) ALGIERS 2053, (B) ALGIERS 2198

1. DURING WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION AUGUST 29 OF SAHARA DISPUTE, MAURITANIAN INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS, AND STATE OF GIRM, FORMER AMBASSADOR TO U.S. 'ABDALLAH REPORTED THAT TRUSTED FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE HAD REPORTED HEARING INTERNATIONAL RADIO NEWS BULLETIN PRECEEDING EVENING ANNOUNCING DEATH OF SLIMANE HOFFMAN, GOA'S SAHARA EXPERT, IN ALGIERS. WHEN 'ABDALLAH ASKED IF I COULD CONFIRM REPORT, I RESPONDED IN NEGATIVE. HE THEN SUGGESTED THAT IF HOFFMAN HAD IN FACT DISAPPERED FROM ALGIERS SAHARA SCENE, THERE WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE A CHANGE IN GOA APPROACH TO SAHAR PROBLEM, AND THERE WAS 50-50 CHANCE THAT CHANGE MIGHT BE FOR BETTER.

2. JUDGING FROM JUMBLE OF MISIMPRESSIONS AND MISINTERPRETATIONS HOFFMAN APPARENTLY HAS HAD ABOUT CURRENT SCENE IN MAURITANIA, ABOUT ROLE OF FRENCH AND MOROCCAN MILITARY HERE, AND ABOUT POLITICAL POSITION AND STRENGTH OF PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH (PARA 7 REF A), ELIMINATION OF SUCH AN "EXPERT" FROM INNER COUNCILS
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OF ALGERIAN REGIME, AND POSSIBILITY OF HIS BEING REPLACED BY SOMEONE WHOSE KNOWLEDGE OF MAURITANIA IS MORE THOROUGHLY GROUNDED IN FACT AND REALITY COULD VERY WELL ENHANCE PROSPECTS FOR EVENTUAL ACCOMODATIONJ

3. WOULD MUCH APPRECIATE EMBASSY ALGIERS' VERIFICATION OR REPUDIATION OF REPORTED NEWS STORY, AND, IF ACCURATE, EMBASSY'S

ESTIMATE OF IMPACT OF HOFFMAN'S DISAPPEARANCE.

HANDYSIDE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTES, MISSING PERSONS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 31-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: PBOR, SS, AG, MO, MR, (HOFFMAN, SLIMANE)
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